



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCLO

12 JAN 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MEDCOM MAJOR SUBORDINATE
COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Safeguarding Medical Materiel Assets

1. Commanders have a responsibility to ensure policies and procedures are in place and followed to prevent the unnecessary and avoidable loss of government resources. This responsibility applies to all facets of operations, whether it is patient safety or safeguarding vaccines from avoidable loss due to equipment malfunctions. A recent event at an Army Medical Department (AMEDD) medical treatment facility resulted in the loss of over \$1.4M in vaccines due to process failures, both human and mechanical. This event was significant yet is not the first of its kind, and points to a real need to thoroughly evaluate and ensure internal controls are in place (e.g., mechanical alarms, physical checks by duty officers, and back-up power when warranted).

2. I expect each Commander to immediately review mechanical alarms and other internal controls to ensure they are adequate to prevent avoidable loss of medical materiel. The Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics (ACSLOG) will publish an Operations Management Bulletin to provide specific guidance concerning storage, alarm, and notification requirements for temperature sensitive materiel stored in refrigerators and freezers. Your staff must review the guidance and ensure processes are established that eliminate the potential for any future losses. However, do not wait for ACSLOG instructions to begin your review!

3. I need you to move forward quickly and resolve any weaknesses that could compromise the safety of our medical materiel assets. My point of contact is COL Mike Johnson, Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics, 210-221-6225, DSN 471-6225.

KEVIN C. KILEY
Lieutenant General, MC
Commanding